The Real Republican Agenda:

GOP Ready to Repeal Patient Protections, Put Insurance Companies Back in Control of Americans' Health Care & Turn Medicare into a Voucher System

While Democrats fought to put Americans in control of their health care instead of insurance companies, Republicans continue to push for a repeal of health reform and a return to the status quo of skyrocketing health care costs and unfair insurance practices.

Tomorrow, health reform's "Patient's Bill of Rights" is going into effect, providing a number of key patient protections for all Americans. On the same day that Americans will start to benefit from these protections, Republicans are unveiling an agenda that names taking those benefits away a top priority – under Republicans, insurance companies will once again be in charge of Americans' health care.

Under the Republican repeal plan insurance companies will once again:

- **Be allowed to drop people when they get sick.**

- **Be allowed to deny coverage for children with pre-existing conditions.**

- **Be allowed to put lifetime limits on coverage**, which has caused thousands of insured, middle-class Americans to declare bankruptcy when a catastrophic illness strikes and they exceed the lifetime limit.

- **Be allowed to put unreasonable annual limits on coverage,** cutting off coverage for hundreds of thousands of people when they need it most.

- **Be allowed to prevent parents from keeping their young adult children on their health plan** as the children work to launch their careers.

- **Be allowed to make key preventive services,** such as mammograms and immunizations, **subject to deductibles and co-payments.**

- **Be allowed to deny coverage for needed care without providing patients a chance to appeal to an independent third party.**

But wait, there's more. Republicans have even floated the idea of turning the Medicare system into a voucher program.

From the Washington Post:

"Some GOP lawmakers also have endorsed Ryan's alternative budget plan, which would wipe out deficits in part by privatizing Social Security and replacing traditional Medicare benefits with an insurance voucher for people age 55 and older." [Washington Post, 2/2/10]

By repealing key patient protections and turning Medicare into a voucher system, it is clear that Republicans are doubling down on failed policies. The House Republican repeal plan will do nothing more than take us back to status quo that has failed too many American families.